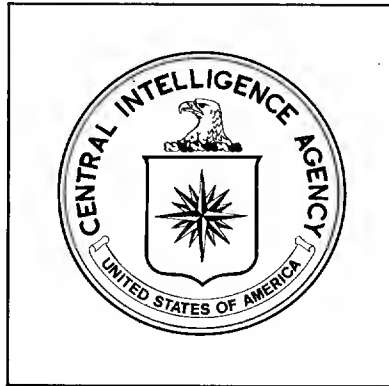


Confidential
No Foreign Dissem



STAFF NOTES:

Middle East Africa South Asia

Confidential

125

No. 0688/75
June 9, 1975

Warning Notice
Sensitive Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

Classified by 005827
Exempt from general declassification schedule
of E. O. 11652, exemption category:
§ 5B (1), (2), and (3)
Automatically declassified
on: Date Impossible to Determine

CONFIDENTIAL

MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

CONTENTS

Bangladesh: Party Structure Established 1

June 9, 1975

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Bangladesh

Party Structure Established

1 President Mujibur Rahman last weekend announced
the organizational structure of Bangladesh's single
party and named its key officials. This action com-
2 pletes the reordering of the political system that
Mujib launched last January when he shifted to an
authoritarian presidential system. The new party
organization further focuses personal responsibility
on Mujib for his government's failures and successes.

1 Mujib has appointed relatives and long-time
political associates to leadership posts at every
level of the party. The 15-man executive committee,
headed by Mujib himself and drawn entirely from leaders
of his old Awami League, will be the party's main
policy-making body. It will oversee daily party
business and is empowered to approve membership in
lower-level committees. A 115-member central com-
mittee includes senior civil servants, leaders of the
armed services and other security groups, and some
members of former opposition parties. It will conduct
party business between meetings of the party council,
a plenary body to be composed of the executive,
2 central and district committees and required to meet
only twice every five years. Five special interest
fronts--for peasants, labor, women, youth, and students--
are each headed by former Awami League stalwarts.

2 Mujib's party appointments underscore his deter-
mination to continue his close personal control over
his party and government and to restrict dissent from
below. While party membership is theoretically open
to any citizen over 18, prospects for the inclusion
of significant numbers of former opposition party
leaders appear dim.

2 Although the new appointments do not change the
composition of the country's political establishment,
most Bengalees appear willing to reserve judgment on

(Continued)

June 9, 1975

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

2 | Mujib's performance as president for a while longer.
Disgruntled members of the military and civil service,
who pose the greatest potential threat to Mujib's
continued rule, are probably pleased that they are
represented on the central committee. (CONFIDENTIAL)



June 9, 1975

2

CONFIDENTIAL

Confidential

Confidential